determined by the number and size of swabs to be stored, wherein the flexible base layer and the flexible cover layer are integrally joined in areas between the chambers, the chambers being broken in response to the application of finger pressure on the flexible cover to tear the flexible cover layer inward to provide access to the medical swabs through the opening in the cover layer.

Sub #3 18. (Four Times Amended) Storage device for medical swabs comprising an envelope, said envelope having a flexible base film and flexible covering film wherein said envelope has adjacent chambers wherein said chambers comprise two flexible layers which are integrally bonded with each other in the areas between the chambers, the chambers opening in response to the exertion of finger pressure on the covering film to provide access to the medical swabs through the opening in the covering film.

Sub #4 22. (New) Storage device for medical swabs comprising an envelope, said envelope having a flexible base layer having receiving depressions for holding the medical swabs, and a flexible cover layer sealed to the base layer to form chambers with the respective depressions, said cover layer opening in response to finger pressure on the cover layer to provide access to the chamber holding the medical swabs through the opening in the cover layer.

REMARKS

The undersigned appreciates the courtesy of Examiner Luong in their telephone interview held on January 2, 2002. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, amended claims 16 and 18, and new claim 22, are included herein for the Examiner's consideration.

The present invention is a simple one, which is a reason the Examiner has expressed her reluctance to allow the claims. Of course simplicity is not a reason for not allowing claims, and indeed some of the greatest inventions are the result of their simplicity. The present invention is